

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

IO-10 SY-04 /064 W

----- 067560

R 170851Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4616

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LT

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL: PROSECUTION CONCLUDES CASE

REF: MASERU 52

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: CROWN RESTED ITS CASE AGAINST 30 ACCUSED IN TREASON TRIAL JAN 16. DEFENSE IMMEDIATELY MOVED FOR DISMISSAL OF FOUR ACCUSED ON GROUNDS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. CHIEF JUSTICE MAPETLA DISMISSED ONE ACCUSED, SEEISA NQOJANE (NO. 32 IN INDICTMENT), BECAUSE NO EVIDENCE HAD BEEN PRESENTED AGAINST HIM; CROWN ASSENTED. COURT RECESSED FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD TO CONSIDER MOTIONS TO DISMISS OTHER THREE.

2. BEGIN LOU: HEAD OF PROSECUTION JULES BROWDE INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO IMPLICATE ACCUSED NO. 32, NQOJANE, BECAUSE ONLY EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM

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HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY ACCOMPLICE WITNESS IN STATEMENT TO

POLICE WHICH HE REFUSED TO CORROBORATE BEFORE COURT. BROWDE'S CASE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED THROUGHOUT BY POOR PREPARATION AND UNRELIABILITY OF WITNESSES. NEVERTHELESS, CROWN HAS PRESENTED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE FOR DEFENSE TO ANSWER.

3. SENIOR DEFENSE COUNSEL KUNY'S STRATEGY APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO DISCREDIT TESTIMONY OF POLICE WITNESSES (ON GROUNDS THEY SEEKING TO COVER UP OWN CRIMES) AND ACCOMPLICE WITNESSES (COERCION); TO SHOW THAT ACCUSED WERE ACTING IN WHAT THEY BELIEVED WAS SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST PLANNED ATTACKS BY BNP AND POLICE; AND, FINALLY, TO QUESTION WHETHER ACCUSED OWED LOYALTY TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO.

4. NUMBER OF DETAINEES REMAINING TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN JAIL (PARA 2 REFTTEL) APPARENTLY IS FORTY-NINE RATHER THAN FORTY-FIVE; FOUR DETAINEES RELEASED OVER WEEKEND, ACCORDING TO KUNY, HAD NEVER BEEN COUNTED IN PREVIOUS TALLY OF DETAINEES. END LOU.  
HAUGHT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREASON, TRIALS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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